

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

The specification has been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions. A substitute specification has been prepared and is submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Enclosed is a marked-up copy of the specification and abstract labeled **“Version with Markings to Show Changes Made”** indicating the changes incorporated therein.

Claims 3, 7 and 15 have been objected to as containing a number of minor informalities. Claims 3-5 and 7 have been amended so as to address the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. As a result, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

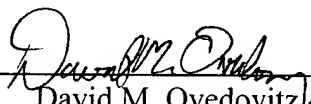
The objection to claim 15 is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. As correctly noted by the Examiner, page 16 of the remarks filed with the Amendment of July 30, 2003 indicates that the bright side level refers to the first connected part. However, the reference to the second connecting part on line 3 of claim 15 is also correct. The last section of claim 14, from which claim 15 depends, recites “an image forming device ... for forming an image of only the second connected part based on the brightness information.” This section of claim 14 provides support for the language of claim 15. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to claim 15 is also respectfully requested.

Further, claim 10 has been amended to make a minor correction.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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